

A N O T H E R  
MEDICAL SPECTATOR  
EXTRAORDINARY,  
ADDRESSED TO THE  
SURGEONS OF GREAT BRITAIN,  
ON THE CURE OF THE  
POPLITÆAL ANEURISM.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED,

Reasons for believing, that, by an Extension of the same Principle which hath been successfully applied to the Cure of Aneurism, the most painful, the most difficult, and the most dangerous Part of the Operation of Amputation, viz. The securing of the Arteries either by the crooked Needle, or the Tenaculum, may, with the greatest Ease and Safety, be entirely superseded. [Price 6d.]

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Sold by Mr. PRIDDEN, N<sup>o</sup> 109 FLEET-STREET;

Where may also be had the First and Second Volumes of the Medical Spectator, including the first Medical Spectator Extraordinary. Price 12s. in boards.

“The proposal for curing the Poplitæal Aneurism, by gradually compressing the artery *above*, deserves more attention; and, if employed before the circulation, though the distended artery is wholly destroyed by the Aneurismal Tumor, may be of service. The anastomosing arteries will, in this way, gradually expand; and the current of blood, check'd in its momentum, will not distend the tumour so fast as if uncontrouled.”

See the Critical Review for August 1792.

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“Praise is the nutriment of genius; it acts like the dews of Heaven, or the kindly warmth of the Sun; and I am thankful for the scanty ray which sheds its influence, though not of the benigneſt nature, on my proposal for curing the poplitæal Aneurism—nor can I refrain from expressing a wish, that the proposal itself had been given to the publick in a journal of such extensive circulation as the Critical Review: perhaps it might have arrested the hand of some ingenious and decisive Surgeon, preparing to perform the fatal operation recommended by Mr. Hunter—he might, perhaps, have conceived, that it was capable of doing something more than merely preventing the future distension of the tumor. Where the life or the limb of a fellow-creature is at stake, the humane practitioner will surely grasp at a proposal which holds forth the probability of a speedy and an effectual CURE, without danger or difficulty, interruption, or interference, with any other proposal that may be adopted in future.”

See the first Medical Spectator Extraordinary, p. 30.

A N O T H E R  
MEDICAL SPECTATOR  
EXTRAORDINARY.

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1793.

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*" Ceterum quantacumque fuerint aliorum conamina, semper existimavi mihi vitalis auræ usum frustra datum fore, nisi et ipse in hoc stadio versatus, symbolum aliquod, utcumque exiguum, in commune Medicinæ ærarium contribuerem."* SYDENHAM.

From the day that my life was first dedicated to the profession, I have always considered myself as living in vain, if I should not be so happy as to contribute something toward the improvement of the healing art.

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MORE than two years have elapsed since I first presumed, under the character of MEDICAL SPECTATOR, to offer both amusement and instruction to the professors of a liberal science; and although I cannot hitherto boast that my

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labours have been honoured by the notice, or the approbation of many distinguished characters in the medical world—Although they have not procured me that *particular* friendship and esteem, to which, from the integrity of my heart, and the rectitude of my intentions, I proudly feel myself entitled; I have the more grateful, and the more pleasing consolation to find, from the ample testimony of several valuable correspondents, that the Medical Spectators have not been written in vain—that there are at this moment existing some useful members of society, who, but for this publication, would probably long since have been numbered with the dead. Animated by the blessings of these, I behold, with equal indifference, the neglect of arrogance, and the attack of malice; for, however pleasing it might be to a professional character, to obtain the sanction and the suffrages of his contemporaries, there are higher and better motives than

than the mere approbation of men, to urge him to persevere in the exercise of his talents for the good of mankind.

It is well known to the readers of this work, that, in my seventh number, I have proposed a method of cure for the Poplitæal Aneurism, very different from those now in general use; and perhaps by this proposal I may have shared the common fate of the projector—to be laughed at and reviled by many of those whom I was anxious to instruct. Were it not foreign to my present purpose, it would be easy to account for the difficulty which every new proposal must encounter before it can be fully established; but, upon the present occasion, it may, perhaps, be better to illustrate the fact.

Let us for a moment suppose it to have been the custom at this time, in every part of the world, for horses to travel without the advantage of being shod with metal: I believe every man

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who thinks for himself, and who has the slightest knowledge of human nature, will allow, that had any ingenious writer published a proposal with the most disinterested intentions, in the clearest and the most expressive language, aided by the advantage of the best engravings, representing the most perfect form of a modern horse-shoe, to be fitted, nailed, and riveted on the feet of these noble animals, he would have been laughed at and ridiculed by the ignorant, out-reasoned by the wise, and the first bungling fellow that had driven a nail into the quick, would have confirmed the objections of all the learned professors of anatomy and surgery who had so clearly, and so explicitly, foretold the danger of paring and puncturing a part replete with nervous fibrillæ. In short, he would have been completely silenced, and the world deprived of his useful invention ; or, if he had succeeded at last, it must have been with nearly the same difficulty that

that any modern projector would find, were he to persuade mankind to abandon the invention. Or if, in treating the present subject, I may be allowed to draw a comparison from a different science, I would observe, that had the late ingenious Mr. Smeaton given up his own opinion to the prejudices of the world, this country would never have enjoyed the benefit of his talents in the erection of the Edystone light-house ; a building which, in the architectural line, is not only one of the most useful, but the most curious in the kingdom.

That it was impossible for any house of stone to withstand the combined fury of the winds and the waves ; and that nothing but a building of timber could be secure, were the prevailing opinions of the world when he began that structure ; yet no sooner was the task executed, and a dreadful storm resisted, than the same world was equally convinced, that nothing but a similar building of stone would effectually have an-

swered the purpose. A fact which was well known to the architect from the beginning; and, I have no doubt, when he first contemplated the scene of his future fame, he felt the full force of the following sentiment rising in his bosom. “ Give me but a rock for my  
“ foundation, and I will erect a struc-  
“ ture, which, so long as the world  
“ endures, shall bid defiance to the  
“ fury of the elements; and which  
“ nothing but the more immediate  
“ finger of the Almighty, as it appears  
“ in the tremendous visitation of earth-  
“ quakes or lightning, shall be able to  
“ destroy.”

If I appear to be rambling from the subject of Aneurism, I would wish it to be understood, that the proper fixing of a shoe is not of more consequence to the foot of a horse, neither is the Edystone light-house of more utility to the benighted mariner, than, in many instances, is the suppression of hæmorrhage to the practical surgeon; so great  
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indeed, that it is recorded of the inventor of the crooked needle, that when the thought first came across his mind, he jumped up and believed himself to be inspired. I also am inspired with a sincere love toward my fellow-creatures, and a desire equally sincere to promote the progress of Medical knowledge; and have long considered the cure of the popliteal Aneurism by this peculiar method as a step only toward an object of much greater consequence; which at one time I was on the point of communicating to the Royal Society, through the medium of a medical gentleman of great ingenuity and distinguished character. The reason why this intention was abandoned may, perhaps, at some future period be known to both; at present I consider the painful recollection as unworthy of my notice; and shall hasten to communicate the following letter, which I had the pleasure to receive last summer from a much younger man, who I have little doubt will soon be  
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an ornament to the profession, and, perhaps an active and extensive practitioner, when the hand that is now writing this paper may be levelled with the dust.

To the Author of the Medical Spectator.

SIR, *Southwell, Nottinghamshire, May 1793.*

In an advertisement on the blue cover of the Gentleman's Magazine of last month, I observed an offer of a Gold Medal "to the author of the *best* paper on the *popliteal Aneurism*, containing one case, whether successful or otherwise, in which the method of cure proposed in the 7th Number of the Medical Spectator has had a fair and candid trial." I am willing to hope, Sir, you will permit me to offer myself as a candidate for the prize. But whether I may experience the good fortune of being successful, or may have the mortification

fication of my paper being rejected, I shall esteem myself happy in having had an opportunity of rescuing an unfortunate object from the tortures of a painful and hazardous operation, and enjoying an opportunity of testifying the obligations which the world is under to the author of the Medical Spectator for his invaluable discovery.

It is a lamentable fact, that the operation for the *popliteal Aneurism*, when performed in the most accurate manner, and by the most experienced surgeons, has too frequently terminated fatally; what, then, can be an adequate recompence to one who communicates to the world a method of rendering such an operation useless? He is entitled to the warmest praises and thanks of his brethren of the faculty, and to the gratitude of mankind. But it is much to be regretted, that merit, however conspicuous, will invariably create envy; and a discovery, however invaluable and undeniable, will ever meet with oppos-

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nents from jealousy, and all her numerous train of attendants; and I am convinced, that the Medical Spectator never expected otherwise than that his discovery would have to encounter a strenuous opposition.

I shall now proceed without farther digression to submit to your perusal some remarks on the nature, causes, progress, and most rational means of cure in Aneurisms, but shall confine myself principally to the poplitæal, and conclude my paper with a case, in which the mode of cure recommended by the Medical Spectator was successfully adopted \*.

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\* The limits of even a Medical Spectator Extraordinary are too short to admit of my giving a full detail of Mr. Hutchinson's ingenious paper, which is therefore here curtailed. And this is done with the greater satisfaction, because I have lately been informed by the writer himself, that he has some thoughts of publishing a pamphlet hereafter upon the subject.

CASE.

## C A S E.

A farmer's man servant, in the neighbourhood of Southwell, had the misfortune to have one of the teeth of a pitchfork run into his thigh, which wounded the femoral artery. The punctured vessel instantly spurted out a small quantity of blood. A surgeon in the neighbourhood was called in, who soon stopped the bleeding, and the external wound healed up in a few days; after which a small tumor formed in the thigh; which growing gradually larger, and somewhat painful, the surgeon was again sent for; but having for a long time applied various remedies to no purpose, he explained to the patient's friends the nature of his complaint; and proposed the operation as the only means that offered a prospect of success. Both the patient and his friends objected in the most forcible manner to this mode of proceeding, and  
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he was submitted to my care. I instantly recollected the seventh number of the Medical Spectator, and, having very attentively considered the means which are there proposed for preventing the operation, I was struck with the great probability of success from this method, and resolved to give it a fair trial. I immediately procured "a concave iron plate, sufficiently long to extend from the outside of the knee to the hip, and lined, particularly at each end, with soft ~~chammy~~ leather, stuffed with cotton, so as to make a pressure only on those two parts, viz. the knee and the hip. Opposite to the part where the partial pressure was necessary, the iron extended in the form of a stout inelastic iron crescent (as directed by the Medical Spectator), from one to two inches in breadth, sufficient to embrace without pressure three-fourths of the circumference of the thigh. In each extremity of this crescent there was a tranverse eye to receive the girth of

*Petit's*

*Petit's Tourniquet*, which being applied, and a common cricket-ball being placed over the femoral artery, the whole of the pressure was divided betwixt the femoral artery and the thigh-bone on one part, and the outside of the knee and the hip on the other." I proceeded implicitly by the direction of the *Medical Spectator*, and the pressure was increased in a gradual manner. "On the first day I tightened the screw so far only as to produce a sensible diminution in the force of the pulsation; after three days I increased the compression so as to render the pulsation still less perceptible; and, after ten days more, I gave such a degree of pressure as I imagined would totally obliterate every sense of pulsation, and excite sufficient pain to bring on the adhesive inflammation. I now enjoined a strict horizontal posture for the space of ten days, when I ventured to relax the *Tourniquet*, and had the happiness of finding the pulsation to be totally removed,

moved, and the tumor itself considerably lessened. I now treated it as a simple extravasation ;” and, at the end of nine weeks and five days from his being first submitted to my care, I enjoyed the satisfaction and happiness of seeing my patient perfectly restored, and a considerable addition of credit and honour to my professional abilities.

In the above description of the instrument and mode of treatment, I have used the Medical Spectator’s own words, being convinced, that any change of language could not conduce to the more clear illustration of this invaluable and truly commendable discovery. I shall be happy to hear the reception which this paper meets with ; and I hope the author of the Medical Spectator will give me credit when I declare  
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most obedient and devoted servant,

BENJAMIN HUTCHINSON,

SURGEON

The following is a Copy of the Answer returned to Mr. HUTCHINSON's very pleasing and satisfactory Letter.

TO Mr. BENJAMIN HUTCHINSON.

SIR,

THE circuitous mode, by which the letters of correspondents are conveyed to the Author of the Medical Spectator, must apologize for the length of time that hath intervened since the date of your letter, containing a case of Aneurism, with some general remarks on the treatment of the disease. It is almost needless to observe, that the improvement proposed in the seventh Number of the Medical Spectator is of so much importance to the present practice of Surgery, that there can be no doubt but a case, confirming my opinion, must be extremely grateful, and entitled to my warmest thanks. It is,

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therefore, with the most heartfelt satisfaction that I sit down to acknowledge the receipt of your letter.—I congratulate you, Sir, on the happy opportunity of being the first Surgeon in the kingdom to carry my idea into practice. You may probably recollect, that I had some doubt respecting the sincerity of the encomiums which you were pleased to lavish upon the Medical Spectator in your first letter; but, in regard to the present, every doubt must vanish: it is impossible to suppose, that any professional man of character could deliberately sit down to trifle with an author upon so serious a subject. Be assured, Sir, I have not the smallest suspicion of the kind; but, since your name does not appear in either the town or country list of Surgeons at the Hall, I trust you will pardon my taking the liberty to request a reference to some Medical gentleman in town, of whom my respectable Printer may make some farther enquiries. In the mean time I



shall not scruple to confess, that the praise which your letter contains now really "thrills through my bosom\*;" such, indeed, is the satisfaction which I feel upon the occasion, that I cannot hesitate a moment to inform you, that should the offer of a Gold Medal, which I have made to the profession at large, produce either a better paper, or a more complete case of poplitæal Aneurism, yet such is the gratification which I experience on the perusal of yours, that it shall be entitled to the same reward. And I have only to request, that you will do me the honour to mention, if it will be more agreeable to you to receive at present the full value of the medal in Medical books of your own selection, or whether you may be inclined to wait the uncertain period when the reception of the Harringtonian Theory of the Atmosphere, which I anticipate with ardor, shall confirm me in

\* See Medical Spectator, vol. II. p. 44.

the resolution of striking a medal upon the occasion. I am, Sir,

Your most obedient,

humble Servant,

The Author of the

*May 31, 1793:*

MEDICAL SPECTATOR.

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To this Letter the following answer was returned.

To the Author of the Medical Spectator.

SIR,

I believe you will easily give me credit when I say, that it is not a mere form of words only with which I express the pleasure your very kind letter afforded me, and which I most assuredly should have answered by return of post,  
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had it with any degree of convenience been in my power. Permit me, Sir, to offer you my unfeigned thanks for the distinguished honor you have been so indulgent as to confer upon me, and thus again to congratulate you on the infinite satisfaction your own sensibility must enjoy in the pleasing reflection of adding so material an improvement to the present practice of Surgery. I am happy that your doubts of the sincerity of my encomiums are now nearly vanished; and give me credit when I inform you, that if I can dive sufficiently deep into the nature and composition of my own disposition, dissimulation and insincerity are not among the number of its ingredients.—I am not at all surprised that you desire to have a reference to some Medical gentleman in town concerning me, as you most assuredly could not at *present* find my name in either the *town* or *country* list of Surgeons at the Hall, having not perfectly completed my education and, as

I am a stranger to London, I cannot boast of much Medical acquaintance; but if your respectable Printer will take the trouble of enquiring of Dr. Willan, Ely place, you may probably meet with some information, having requested Dr. Buck (a friend of my father and myself, and a physician resident at Newark) to give Dr. Willan some account of myself. In the country list of Surgeons in the Medical Register you may find my father's name, who about thirty years ago was pupil to the celebrated Mr. Pott, but whose Medical acquaintance in town are now laid low. I shall be in London the beginning of October, at which time if the Medical Spectator would so far honor me as to rank me in the number of his acquaintance, he will confer an additional obligation.

- I was in no small degree pleased with the prospect of an early period being fixed for the commencement of your Third Volume, and should esteem myself obliged to you to mention in the  
next

next with which you honour me, at what time you again purpose prosecuting your work.

Since you are so polite as to pay me the compliment to make choice either of *Medical books* of my own selection, or the Medal, you will, I hope, permit me, Sir, to fix upon the medal, and to wait the anxiously-expected period, when the reception of the Harringtonian Theory of the Atmosphere shall confirm you in the resolution of striking a Medal upon the occasion; and I flatter myself with the honor of hearing from the Author of the Medical Spectator in a short time. I have the honour to remain with \* \* \* \* \* Sir,

Your most obliged, &c. &c.

BENJAMIN HUTCHINSON.

P. S: I have this day had the pleasure of seeing Dr. Buck, who was happy in the opportunity, not only of performing an act of friendship for my-



self, but also of having it in his power to recommend me to the attention of  
 \* \* \* \* \* the Medical Spectator.

In answer to some farther enquiries, I shall observe, that Mr. Hutchinson informs me, the age of his patient is between thirty and forty; that the limb is by no means weakened; and that, neither during the progress of the cure, nor since, was it in any degree œdematous.—In a subsequent note, dated from the Borough, he regrets, that, at the time the patient was under his care, he did not make any particular note on the exact situation of the wound; “but if,” he adds, “I can place the least confidence in my memory (which in this respect cannot very widely err), the exact situation was the middle of the *musculus popliteus*.”

For the reasoning, upon which this peculiar mode of compression has been recommended, I must refer to the Medical

dical Spectator, N<sup>o</sup> 7. vol. I. and shall here only add, that every person who has attended to the effect of a common ligature upon any of the extremities (the *humerus* for instance) sufficiently powerful to stop the pulse at the wrist, must be convinced, that the circulation is completely obstructed—that tumefaction, pain, and inflammation, immediately commence, and that mortification must inevitably follow; but let him press with the point of his middle finger upon the subclavian artery till he is informed by an assistant that the pulse at the wrist is completely stopped, he will find that not the smallest symptom of either pain or distress is excited in the limb; let him press also with the same force upon the external iliac, as it emerges from the abdomen, passing over the bone, and he will perceive as little uneasiness in either the leg or the thigh. It is evident, therefore, that the communication by the anastomosing branches is at all times carried

carried on to a much greater extent than is perhaps generally either known or believed. Indeed, it would be inconsistent with that wisdom which we observe in every other part of the œconomy of nature if it were otherwise; if the life of a large limb should depend entirely upon the safety and perviousness of a single blood-vessel. And this is one of the principal physiological reasons which first led me to expect such salutary effects from the partial compression of an artery. Should it, however, be observed, that, although the compression has been successful in the cure of a wounded artery, the same good effects may not be experienced in the true Aneurism, where the coats of the artery are widely distended; I can only answer, that in my own opinion there can be no material difference. At present, indeed, we are uncertain whether the cure has been effected by the sides of the artery cohering at the compressed part from inflammation; whether

ther the original wound might heal during the cessation of pulsation, and the consequent interruption to the current of blood, or whether, during so long continued an obstruction, the artery might not become impervious merely from the stagnation of blood in its cavity.—Should this last be the mode, it is probable, that in the true Aneurism the cavity would be more likely to be choaked up with grumous blood through its whole extent, because after compression of the superior portion, sufficiently powerful to stop the pulsation, it is evident that a gentle pressure on the aneurifimal tumour must force a considerable part of its contents into the inferior branches, through which it could never be propelled to the returning veins, because the pulsation having previously ceased, the *vis a tergo* is wanting.

In this point of view, therefore, there might be some reason for supposing, that the arterial cavity through its whole  
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inferior extent, and for some considerable length above the compressed part, either fills up with grumous blood, or contracts, or that its sides cohere during compression ; but let the obstruction be effected in whatever manner it may, we have no reason to doubt of the fact, as far as the cure of Aneurism is concerned : and I sincerely hope in future that no Surgeon will attempt the operation recommended by that excellent Surgeon Mr. Hunter, till this partial pressure has had a fair and a candid trial.—If, however, there should still remain an advocate for that painful and hazardous operation, I would wish to ask him, upon what principle he thinks it acts in the most successful case ? I am persuaded a very little reflection will convince him, that, when it really happens to succeed, it is in fact only obtaining in a very bad and uncertain way, at the expence of a large, a painful, deep, and dangerous incision, that very object, which by this proposal

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is effected in the easiest and the most lenient manner : for, Mr. Hunter's operation, independent of the wound, consists at last in compression—but it is compression of the worst and the most dangerous kind.—After completing the dissection, a crooked needle is passed under the artery, which is tied with a thread, having no very bulky substance of flesh to defend it from being cut through, an accident which I suppose must frequently take place. At first every thing may appear to go on well ; but, in a few days, the ligature, acting upon the same principle as a string round a wart, produces mortification in the included parts : and, during the whole progress of the cure, the life of the patient may, with the greatest propriety, be said to hang upon a thread.

That Mr. Hunter's operation hath sometimes succeeded, is an additional proof of the vast resources inherent in the animal œconomy ; for, here the  
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compression of the artery being instantaneous, the communication of the circulation by the anastomosing branches must immediately commence; whereas, by the gradual compression recommended in the Medical Spectator, there is time given for the current of blood gradually to change its course, and for the anastomosing branches gradually to expand.

I shall now, therefore, call the attention of my readers to the following important consideration: *If a wounded artery can thus be with so much ease and safety effectually cured, can there be the smallest doubt remaining, but that by the same mode of compression, the hæmorrhage would be as certainly and as effectually stopped, during the progress of the cure, after an amputation of an inferior part of the limb?*

I flatter myself, that the principles which have been delivered in this and the seventh Number of the Medical Spectator, are so thoroughly understood,

derstood, that it will be unnecessary for me either to defend the proposition, or to enlarge upon the many advantages that must accrue from thus rendering the crooked needle and the tenaculum in a great measure unnecessary.— That pain is an evil will not be denied; and should it succeed, of which I entertain not the smallest doubt, a considerable degree of pain will be certainly avoided during amputation—the danger of puncturing or including a nerve within the ligature will be entirely removed; and there will no longer be any danger of hæmorrhage from the artery being tied either too tight or too slack when the crooked needle has been used; and the same is equally applicable to the ligature, made by the assistance of the tenaculum, which is still more liable to slip.

The principle, being, I hope, established, I am persuaded it is needless to be particular in the description of the instrument. The general directions which

which have been given, for compressing the femoral artery, may be varied according to the existing circumstances by every Surgeon. I will, however, just observe, that, if either the hand or the fore-arm were to be amputated, I would procure a concave iron plate, such as that which hath been already described, sufficiently long to reach from the shoulder to the point of the elbow. — But, if the arm is to be amputated above the elbow, it is evident, that a shorter plate must be used ; and here it is also evident, that, for want of a resting point for each end of the plate, a larger surface of the arm, and consequently a greater number of blood-vessels, will suffer compression, but still not so many as to endanger the success of the operation. Should a Surgeon, however, be really apprehensive of this, it would be no very difficult affair, by means of leathern straps lined with soft shammy leather, stuffed with cotton, and fastened round the shoulders and breast,

breast, to fix a screw or tourniquet upon a compress applied to the subclavian artery.—As the external iliac lies remarkably convenient for compression, the same will be applicable to an amputation very high up in the thigh; for, by similar leathern straps in the form of the T bandage, a proper compress may, with the greatest ease, be screwed with any degree of tightness requisite to stop the pulsation of this artery.

I suppose every medical man, who has the smallest turn for contrivance, must readily comprehend the kind of bandages here alluded to; which I have often had thoughts of recommending to the truss-makers, as a cheap and easy substitute for elastic trusses, conceiving, that in many cases the pressure might be directed in this manner with the greatest accuracy to a given point.

But, before I conclude the present paper, I must again beg leave to call the

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attention of my readers to an enquiry, how the cavity of an artery is rendered impervious by compression. The adhesive inflammation is, I believe, most generally supposed to be superinduced: but may there not be another principle upon which the effect depends? If the obstruction to the circulation were merely owing to the adhesive inflammation, the adhesion, it is evident, can only take place in the part immediately subjected to the compressing power, the artery, both above and below this part, must still remain in its natural state; and I think it is highly probable, that the current of blood, acting forcibly from the superior portion against this particular part, would be liable in a short time to break it open again. Is it not therefore possible, that the merely putting a stop for a considerable time to the pulsation of the artery, and the consequent current of blood through it, may render it impervious for a considerable space above the compressed part—

I do not remember to have ever seen the stump of a person, who had suffered amputation, to have been injected, but I think we may venture to assert, that the injection would stop in the larger branches of the artery long before it came to the extremity of the stump, because the portions of the artery, several inches above the stump, having no corresponding veins to receive and to continue the circulation, there must of necessity be an immediate stagnation in the cavity of the artery the moment it is tied. Whoever reflects a little on the division and subdivision of the arterial system must know, that if the full impetus of the arterial pulsation and current of blood were to continue through the trunks of the larger arteries, till within an inch or two of the stump, it could be of no use whatever in supplying the necessary circulation of blood to the contiguous portions of animal substance, whether muscular fibres, common integuments, or bones; for, the very minute branches, which

supply all these parts within six or ten inches of the stump, must be the finer ramifications of larger and wider trunks that pass off from the main artery, a great way farther up the limb.

I conceive then, that the moment an artery is tied in amputation, its cavity for a considerable distance above the stump must be completely filled with blood, which, not having an opportunity either to discharge itself, or to return by a vein, or to regurgitate, there must be a very speedy cessation to its pulsation—were it otherwise, it would, I think, very frequently happen, that the ends of the arteries would give way at the distance even of ten or twenty days from the amputation; a thing which very rarely, if ever, occurs.

In a former paper I hazarded a conjecture, that merely binding a narrow slip of broad cloth or common bleeding ligature round the stump, sufficiently tight to prevent the bleeding of the arteries, would not endanger mortification in the stump, because the inferior

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portion of the limb, which was to have been nourished by the blood conveyed through those arteries, is removed, and the return of the blood by the venal system unnecessary.

In the accounts of the late military operations before the city of Seringapatam, we are informed, that four unhappy objects were received into the camp, who had had their hands cut off by the cruel orders of Tippoo Saib : and it is well known, that the native princes, in various other parts in India, are in the habit of inflicting similar punishments. It is certainly an object of great importance to ascertain the manner in which they stop the effusion of blood ; and whether it may be done by the application of red-hot iron, or of a tight ligature round the stump, is at present unknown in this part of the world. I am happy, however, in being able to mention, that there is now, in a remote part of Asia, a young man of genius and great activity, possessed of the true spirit

spirit for Medical and Philosophical enquiry, from whom I expect information respecting this and some other circumstances that merit the attention of the profession, and which, I flatter myself, will arrive in time to be communicated in the Third Volume of the Medical Spectator.—Doubtless, when this simple mode of suppressing the hæmorrhage was first suggested in this work, it might appear unlikely to answer the purpose, and probably excited the sneer of superficial reasoners ; but, whatever may be its fate, whether it may be condemned, or may be hereafter confirmed by experience, is not at present an object of very material consequence ; because we may now look forward to a better and more scientific mode of effecting the purpose.—The partial compression of the principal trunk, at a considerable distance above the amputated part, by means of the improvement which I have proposed in the tournequet, will neither allow of cavil or objection ; and

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I submit it with confidence to the discernment of an enlightened age.

R. W.

\* \* \* If the Third Volume of the Medical Spectator should not appear so early as the Author may have given the public reason to expect—they are requested to refer the disappointment, if it is really a disappointment, to any other cause than a want of proper materials for carrying it on; perhaps a reference to the two first paragraphs of the twenty-second paper may give some little insight into the matter—but, let the cause be what it may, I think it my duty to seize the present opportunity to return my thanks to a number of respectable correspondents, particularly to Mr. Cleobury, Surgeon at Marlow, in Bucks, for two interesting cases of dropsy, cured by the method recommended in the thirty-first paper. His farther communications will be acceptable, and their appearance in the Third  
Volume

Volume will depend entirely upon his own inclination.

Our sensible correspondent, M. D. of Cambridge, may be assured, that his letters are always acceptable; he possesses the happy talent of being able to communicate a useful hint without appearing to obtrude advice. He is right in supposing the thirty-ninth aphorism to want the merit of originality; the first part of it has been established by the late Mr. White, of Manchester; but, if he will attentively consider its conclusion, he will perceive that that aphorism not only mentions the fact, but accounts for the cause of the retention of the Placenta, which the Medical Spectator believes has not before been so satisfactorily done, or in so few words.—He may rely upon it, that the perinæum mentioned in the forty-sixth aphorism, was truly a preternatural one—which will hereafter more clearly appear, if ever the approbation of the publick should encourage the author to  
give

give a separate Volume of Commentaries on those Aphorisms. It will then be more fully known, that the patient alluded to, notwithstanding so considerable an incision, and the subsequent effects of seven truly LABORIOUS deliveries, is at this time in possession of as complete and perfect a perineum as any woman in England.

Mr. Faithom's objections to the use of sulphur in the piles, are judicious, and discover a turn for original thinking—future experience will enable him to improve the paper, and to make it a very useful one. From want of room it is impossible at present to particularise the favours of many other valuable correspondents; to all or any of whom, the Author will be thankful for information respecting the composition of all the different advertised medicines; having it in contemplation to collect them all into the compass of one Medical Spectator, which he presumes

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must be acceptable to the faculty in general.

NB. The Gold Medal for the best paper on the subject of the poplitæal Aneurism, has been adjudged by the Author of the Medical Spectator to Mr. Benjamin Hutchinson, Surgeon, Southwell, Nottinghamshire.—And the Gold Medal, value Ten Guineas for the best paper on the subject of Atmospheric Air, successfully controverting Dr. Harrington's Theory of the Atmosphere, as delivered in the First Volume of the Medical Spectator, continues as a CHALLENGE, to exercise the ingenuity of the chemical Philosophers of the present age.

